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Message Text

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63
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 ACDA-19 MC-02 EB-24

AID-20 IGA-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 DOTE-00 FAA-00 DRC-01

/167 W
---------- 089582
P R 012100Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2165
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 8300

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EAID, MASS, US PE, BR, CI, CU
SUBJ: AIR MINISTER GILARDI ON PERU/CHILE RELATIONS

1. AT RECEPTION HELD AT RESIDENCE LAST NIGHT IN HONOR OF AIR MINISTER GILARDI AND ON OCCASION VISIT USAFSO GENERAL SALISBURY, GILARDI AND I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR PRIVATE, FRANK EXCHANGE RE CHILE AND PERU-CHILE RELATIONS. GILARDI, WHO RECENTLY VISITED THAT COUNTRY REPRESENTING GOP AT CHILEAN NATIONAL DAY CEREMONIES AND WHO IS A LONG-TIME FRIEND OF GENERAL LEIGH, EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR JUNTA LEADER PINOCHET. BOTH HE AND MRS. GILARDI WERE IMPRESSED WITH SERIOUS EFFORT UNDERWAY TO REBUILD CHILE, WITH GENERAL COOPERATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD THIS EFFORT AND WITH SUPPORT PINOCHET JUNTA SEEMED TO HAVE FROM CHILEAN PEOPLE, WHO THE GILARDIS FOUND CHARMING, HARD WORKING AND DEDICATED.

2. GILARDI SAID HE CONVINCED THAT CHILE HAS NO AGGRESSIVE INTENTIONS TOWARD PERU AND TOLD ME OF SPECIAL MESSAGE OF FRIEND-
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SHIP GENERAL PINOCHET ASKED HIM TO TRANSMIT TO PRESIDENT VELASCO. AT SAME TIME GILARDI ASSURED ME THAT PERU HAD NO,

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ABSOLUTELY NO, INTENTIONS AT ATTACKING CHILE. HE SAID BOTH
COUNTIRES ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH DEVELOPMENTAL EFFORTS AND THEY
SHOULD STRIVE FOR INTEGRATION RATHER THAN SEPARATION OR CONFLICT.
I TOLD GILARDI OF THE CONCERN IN WASHINGTON CAUSED BY POSSIBLITY
OF CONFLICT OR AN ARMS RACE IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD, A CONCERN
THAT HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN US PRESS AND BY US CONGRESS.
GILARDI ATTRIBUTED MUCH OF BASIS OF THIS CONCERN TO INTERNATIONAL
CAMPAIGN ORCHESTRATED BY COMMUNISTS OF BOTH SOVIET AND CUBAN
VARIETY. I TOLD GILARDI OF RECENT INTERVIEW I HAD WITH PRESIDENT
VELASCO IN WHICH I REITERATED OUR POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP WITH
PERU, OF COOPERATION WITHOUT INTERVENTION AND OF EVEN-HANDEDNESS
IN MILITARY SALES AS BETWEEN PERU AND CHILE. GILARDI SAID HE
UNDERSTOOD OUR EVEN-HANDED POLICY AND SAID HE DIDN'T THINK IT COULD
BE OTHERWISE. I SAID IT WAS OUR DESIRE TO AVOID CONTRIBUTING TO
ANY IMBALANCE THAT COULD LEAD TO TENSIONS OR AN ARMS RACE AND
SAID WE WERE OPEN TO ANY SUGGESTIONS HE MIGHT HAVE AS TO WAYS WE
COULD ASSIST IN KEEPING TENSIONS DOWN AND UNDERSTANDING UP.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION I MENTIONED RECENT REPORT PICKED UP BY
PERUVIAN INTELLIGENCE ALLEGING SALE OF US F-4 PHANTOM JETS TO
CHILE WHICH WE CHECKED OUT AND FOUND TO BE ABSOLUTELY FALSE.
GILARDI SAID HE HAD NOT BELIEVED THAT REPORT AND AGREED WITH
OUR POLICY OF NOT PERMITTING INTRODUCTION PHANTOM AIRCRAFT TO
LATIN AMERICA. HE SAID HE FELT WE COULD DO A LOT TOWARD ARMS
LIMITATION IN THE HEMISPHERE IF WE AGREED TO SELL UP TO 24 F-5'S
(AND NO MORE) TO ANY COUNTRY INTERESTED AND ABLE TO BUY THEM. I
POINTED OUT THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE VERY LIMITING BECAUSE OF
AVAILABILITIES OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT FROM OTHER SOURCES INCLUDING
THE USSR. GILARDI RECOGNIZED THE OBVIOUS LOOP HOLES BUT DOWN-
GRADED THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCTION OF MIG'S BEYOND CUBA.
HE INDICATED PERU COULD HAVE ACQUIRED MIG'S BUT SAID HE TURNED
THEM DOWN BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO BE DEPENDENT ON THE SOVIETS
OR THE LONG AND UNCERTAIN SPARE PARTS AND RE-SUPPLY LINES THIS
WOULD ENTAIL. HE ADDED THAT HE WANTED HIS AIRFORCE ORIENTED
TOWARD THE US AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.

4. I CONGRATULATED GILARDI AND GOP ON THE EXCHANGE OF HIGH-
LEVEL VISITS BETWEEN PERU AND NEIGHBORING COUNTIRES AS PART OF
THEIR EFFORT TO IMPROVE TIES AND TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING. I
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REFERRED TO PERUVIAN-INSPIRED DECEMBER MEETING OF PRESIDENTS
ON OCCASION OF 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF BATTLE OF
AYACUCHO-JUNIN AS ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO FURTHER PRESIDENT
VELASCO'S ARMS LIMITATION EFFORT AND TO INCREASE REGIONAL
UNDERSTANDING.

5. GILARDI WAS AWARE OF MY RECENT CALL ON PRESIDENT VELASCO
AND SAID PRESIDENT HAD TOLD HIM ABOUT THE WAY IT WENT.
EARLY ON IN OUR CONVERSATION GILARDI SUGGESTED
WE MOVE TO QUOTE TU UNQUOTE BASIS WHICH WAS DID AND,

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FOLLOWING A DESCRIPTION OF RECENT DEVELOMENTS IN BRANIFF/
AEROPERU CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS, HE OFFERED TO BE HELPFUL IF HE
COULD IN THIS SITUATION. WE ARE FOLLOWING UP.

6. COMMENT: AIR MINISTER GILARDI'S APPROACH TO RELATIONS
WITH CHILE IS WELCOME RELIEF FROM HAND-WRINGING CONCERN OF
NAVY MINISTER ARCE WHO IS EVER READY TO DISCERN (OR AT LEAST
TO CLAIM TO DISCERN) US FAVORITISM TOWARD CHILE IN ARMS SUPPLY
POLICY. GILARDI'S FRIENDSHIP WITH GENERAL LEIGH, HIS RECENT
VISIT TO CHILE AND HIS SELF CONFIDENCE WHICH STEMS FROM SIX YEAR'S
OF CABINET-LEVEL ASSOCIATION WITH VELASCO GOVERNMENT (THE ONLY
MINISTER TO HOLD CABINET-LEVEL RANK CONTINUALLY SINCE INCEPTION,
HE TELLS ME) PERMIT HIM TO VIEW PICTURE WITH GREATER
EQUANIMITY THAN ARCE WHO WAS GIVEN NAVY POST RECENTLY FOLLOWING-
NAVY CRISIS WHICH ALTHOUGH COVERED OVER HAS LEFT SIMMERING
RESIDUE JUST BELOW THE SURFACE. PRESIDENT VELASCO'S VIEW OF
RELATIONS WITH CHILE IS ALSO ONE OF SUSPICION AND CONCERN BUT
PROBABLY VARIES WITH INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS GIVEN HIM
BY KEY ADVISORS. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT GILARDI IS AMONG THE MORE
CALM AND OBJECTIVE OF THOSE ADVISORS. WE SHALL CONTINUE OUR
EFFORTS TO EXPLAIN US POLICY, TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING, TO HELP
PROVIDE BALANCE AND TO ENCOURAGE CONCILIATION.
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